

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05931 152026Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4592

S E C R E T CAIRO 5931

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FAHMY

REF: STATE 139552; CAIRO 5923

1. EARLIER TODAY I RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT IN ALEXANDRIA SUGGESTING I MEET WITH FAHMY PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE. SUBSEQUENTLY MOHAMMED RIAD TELEPHONED TO SAY FAHMY HAD SENT WORD FROM MADRID THAT HE WISHED TO MEET WITH ME AT 2130 LOCAL TONIGHT. I HAVE JUST COME FROM THAT MEETING. HE HAD RETURNED FROM MADRID ONLY A HALF HOUR EARLIER AND WAS OBVIOUSLY SOMEWHAT TIRED.

2. I TOLD FAHMY YOU WANTED THE PRESIDENT AND HIM TO RECEIVE A DETAILED REPORT ASAP AND WERE CALLING ME BACK TO GIVE ME A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE TALKS WITH RABIN WHICH I COULD THEN CONVEY PERSONALLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO FAHMY. YOU WANTED THEM TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED SOME POINTS WORTH FURTHER EXPLORATION. I PLANNED TO LEAVE IN THE MORNING AND SHOULD BE BACK IN A FEW DAYS TIME. IF HE HAD ANY OBSERVATIONS FOR ME TO CONVEY TO YOU, I WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO DO SO.

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3. FAHMY RECALLED YOU HAD TOLD HIM IN

SALZBURG THAT YOU WOULD BE CALLING ME BACK AFTER THE RABIN TALKS. WHILE HE DID NOT SEEM SURPRISED THAT I HAD NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE TO CONVEY TO HIM, HE REPEATEDLY INQUIRED IF THERE WERE NOT SOMETHING MORE DEFINITIVE ON THE RABIN TALKS THAT I COULD TELL HIM. AT ONE POINT HE GRUMBLED THAT YOUR PRESS CONFERENCES GIVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RABIN TALKS THAN I COULD PROVIDE. I TOLD HIM THAT YOUR PRESS CONFERENCES, AS I READ THEM, WERE STRICTLY IN ACCORD WITH WHAT WE HAD AGREED ON IN SALZBURG AND HAD NOT DISCLOSED ANY SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RABIN TALKS.

4. FAHMY THEN ASKED ABOUT THE UPCOMING KHADDAM VISIT. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD ANYTHING AT SALZBURG ABOUT IT. SYRIA, HE RECALLED, HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT SALZBURG AND HE WONDERED IF AS A RESULT OF THE RABIN TALKS THERE HAS BEEN SOME BREAKTHROUGH ON THE SYRIAN FRONT. IF NOTHING POSITIVE ON THE SYRIAN FRONT CAME OUT OF RABIN TALKS, HE WONDERED JUST WHAT YOU INTEND TO SAY TO KHADDAM. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT IF YOU SPEAK SOLELY IN GENERALITIES, KHADDAM WILL COME BACK AND LOUDLY PROCLAIM THAT NOTHING IS BEING ACHIEVED. THIS COULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THE EGYPTIANS. I TOLD HIM I DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU WOULD BE DISCUSSING WITH KHADDAM, BUT THAT I WAS SURE FAILURE TO TELL OUR EGYPTIANX FRIENDS ABOUT KHADDAM'S VISIT WAS INADVERTENT. HE, FAHMY, HAD BEEN AWAY THE LAST WEEK OR SO. HE ACCEPTED THE POINT, BUT SAID HE WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT YOU PLAN TO SAY TO THE SYRIANS.

5. WHEN LEAVING, FAHMY ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS BEST REGARDS TO YOU AND HIS HIGH HOPE THAT SOMETHING POSITIVE WILL FLOW FROM THE RABIN TALKS. THE PRESIDENT AND HE WILL AWAIT MY RETURN WITH INTEREST.
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